Refurbishment and
Museum Installation

for the

LUNAR EXCURSION MODULE SIMULATOR

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Langley Research Center
Hampton, Virginia

DESCRIPTION OF

PUBLICITY AND

PUBLIC COMMENT

Attachment E
10 Pages

ATTACHMENT E

DESCRIPTION OF PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC COMMENT

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NASA News

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

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Hampton, Virginia 23665-5225

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September 11, 1989

PARTNERSHIP WILL PRESERVE THE PAST

The Apollo Lunar Excursion Module Simulator (LEMS), used to help train every astronaut who set foot on the moon, will be carefully transported from NASA's Langley Research Center (LaRC), Hampton, to the New Horizons Technical Center (NHTC), Friday morning, September 15.

At New Horizons, students will restore the historic landmark and prepare it for display in the proposed Virginia Air and Space Center in downtown Hampton.

The NHTC will perform the work in partnership with NASA-LaRC, the National Historic Landmarks Commission and the Virginia Air and Space Center.

"We think of space as the future, but now we have to think about preserving the past in space," said NHTC Director Dr. Ralph W. Johnson, referring to the four-way partnership that will preserve the lunar module.

The module was part of the Langley Lunar Landing Research Facility, an essential facility that allowed NASA to train Apollo astronauts to fly in a simulated lunar environment. Neil Armstrong, Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin and 22 other astronauts used the facility to practice piloting problems they would encounter in the last 150 feet of descent to the surface of the moon. The facility was built in LaRC in 1965.

-more-

In 1985, the LEMS and the lunar landing facility were designated National Historic Landmarks by the National Parks Service.

After refurbishment, the lunar lander will be the cornerstone exhibit of the new Virginia Air and Space Center to open in 1992.

"While refurbishing," stated Principal Dr. Patrick M. Konopnicki, "the students will learn the engineering design and construction principles of the 'Lander" from actual engineers and technicians who worked on the project."

Additionally, the students will be working from original blueprints and photographs.

A restoration advisory committee made up of past and present NASA employees associated with the LEMS, along with a liaison officer from the Virginia Air and Space Center, will oversee and monitor the restoration process which should take about two years. The NHTC will also form an advisory committee which will interact with the NASA committee.

In 1984, NASA officially adopted the NHTC as a part of President Reagan's "Adopt-a-school-program.".

"We really stress the partnership," Konopnicki said. "It's a natural outgrowth of the relationship we have with NASA. This project has had a positive effect on the school climate, not only on the students but the teachers as well. We've had them both ask: 'When is it coming?'"

"We get to use it as an incentive," Johnson said. "Only our best students will work on it. We view it as an academic tool, an incentive tool, and a recruitment tool. After all, there is this sense of history about it."

Located at 520 Butler Farm Road in Hampton, NHTC serves students from six area school districts and 14 high schools. In addition to offering regional vocational technical courses, New Horizons was designated as one of the state's four Governor's schools for gifted science students. The location of NHTC near NASA "has been as asset for both students and faculty at the center," stated Konopnicki. "The partnership provides New Horizons students with challenging state-of-

the-art experiences through association with NASA scientists, engineers and technicians. These experiences span the educational spectrum, including both gifted and vocational-technical programs."

EDITORS NOTE: The Lunar Excursion Module Simulator will be transported by flatbed truck from outside the LaRC hangar annex (Building 1244) to the New Horizons Technical Center sometime between 9 a.m. and noon Friday, September 15. Phone Dr. Ralph Johnson at (804) 766-0000, Dr. Patrick Konopnicki at (804) 766-1100, or Allan C. Hanrahan at (804) 864-2762 for details regarding this unusual photo opportunity.

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Students to restore moon landing simulator

HAMPTON — The simulator used at NASA Langley Research Center to help train astronauts for their moon journey is to be restored by students at New Horizons Technical Center.

The Lunar Excursion Module Simulator will be moved from NASA Langley to the vocational high school Friday so that work can begin.

Once restored, the simulator is expected to be one of the main exhibits in downtown Hampton's Virginia Air and Space Center, which is planned to open in 1992.

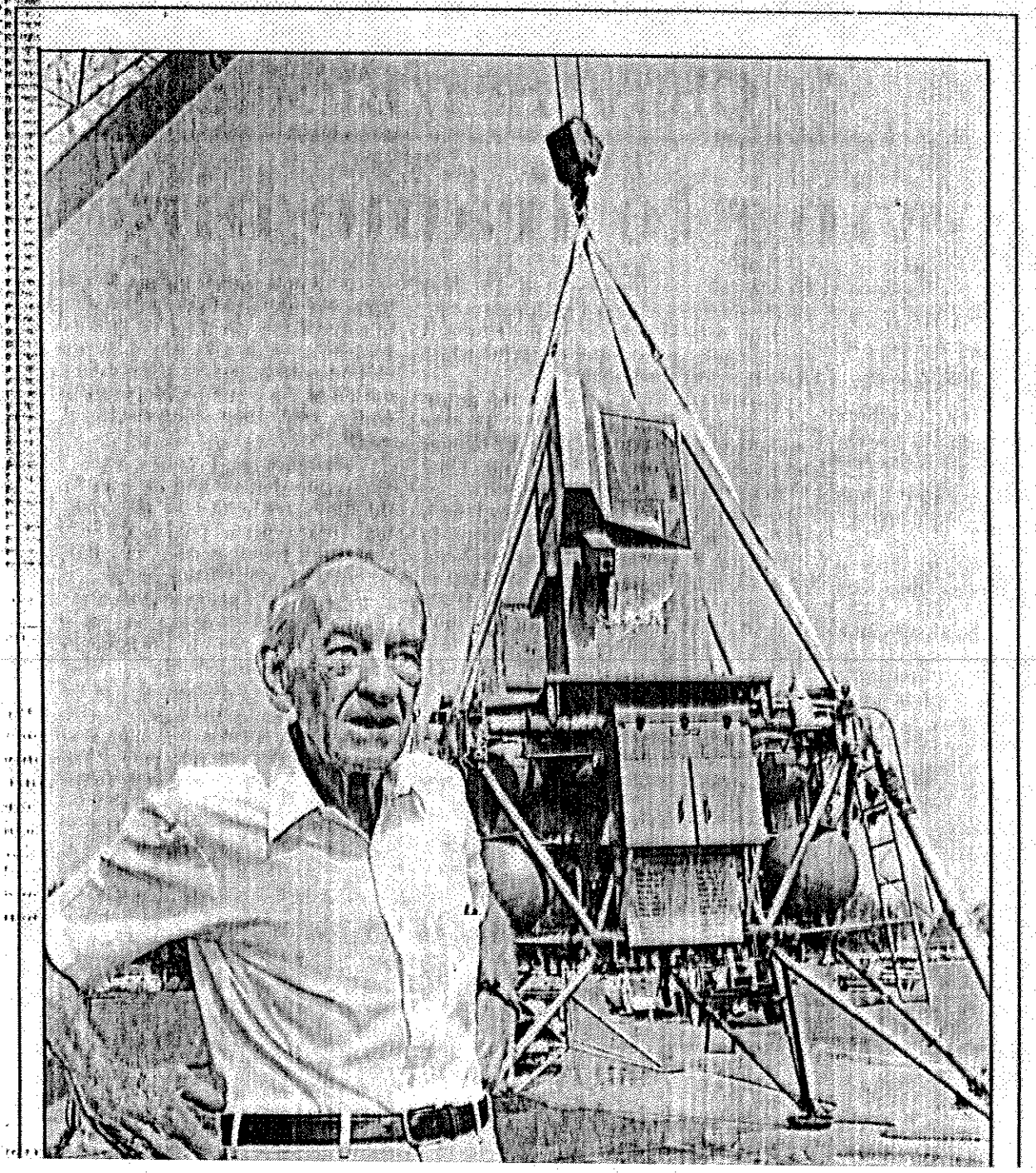
The module was part of Langley's Lunar Landing Research Facility, built in 1965. Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin and 22 other astronauts used the facility to practice problems they could have encountered within their last 150 feet of descent to the moon.

In 1985, the National Parks Service declared the facility and the simulator National Historic Landmarks.

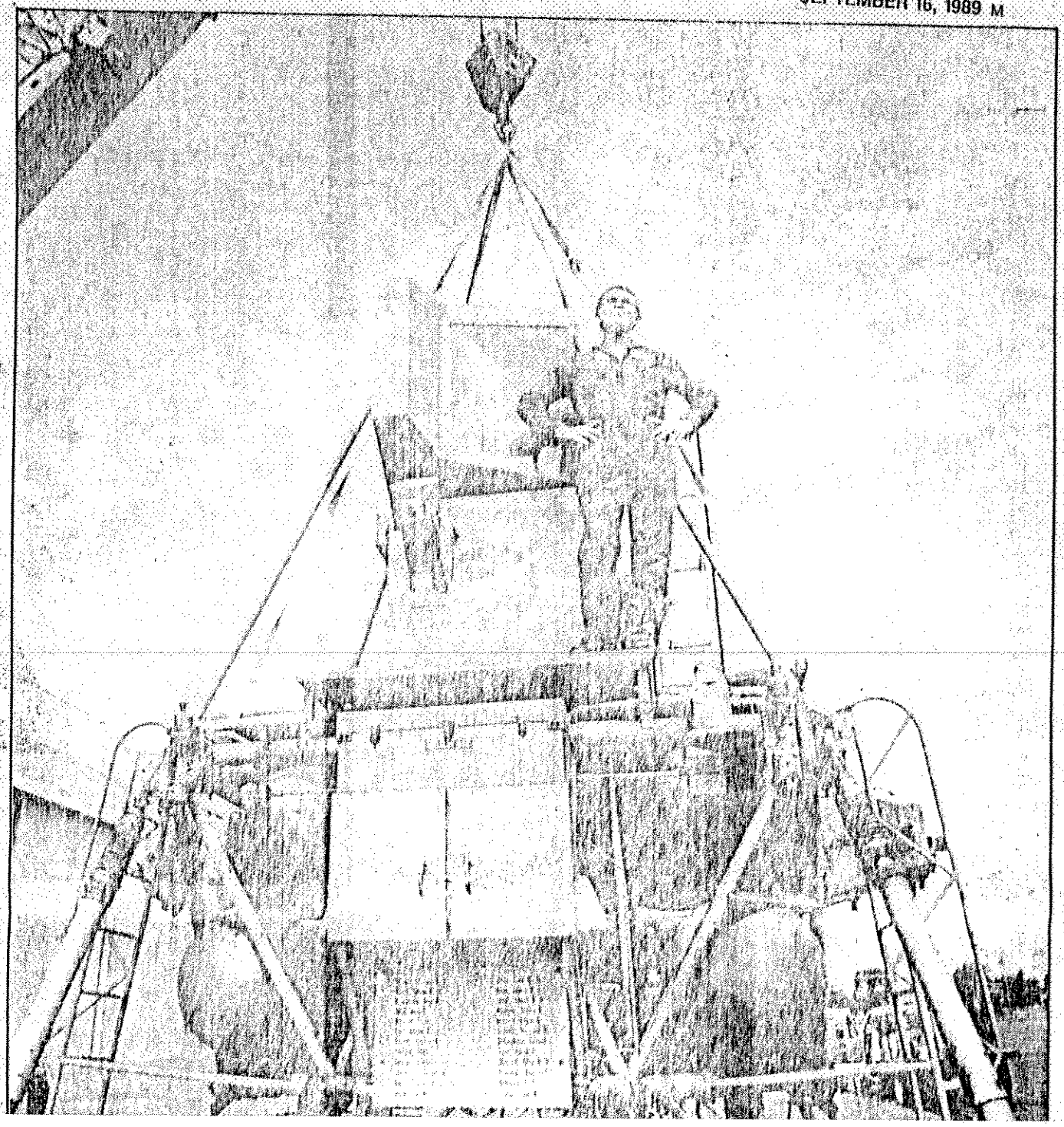
New Horizons, located at 520 Butler Farm Road, is a regional vocational school that offers technical courses to students from six area school districts, including 14 high schools. The school also serves as one of Virginia's high schools for gifted science students.

Top students from the school's sheet metal, auto body, drafting, machine shop and metal fabrication departments will be working on the restoration over the next two years, said Patrick Konopnicki, principal of the Bulter Farm campus. NASA engineers and scientists who originally worked on the project will have discussion sessions with the students, he said.

"It gives them a real outgrowth of what they've been studying," he said. "It helps them transcend from book knowledge to practical experience."



A lunar experience



NASA

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But by 1970, the space race was over and the LEMS was retired and put on display outdoors at the giant gantry.

It sat rusting in the weather for 19 years until finally being put in storage this spring.

"My guess is it looked so shabby that they didn't want people coming around looking at it for the Apollo 20th anniversary, so they hid it in the shed," said research pilot Lee H. Person Jr., who tested the LEMS before the astronauts.

"I'm not sure it was ever real, real shiny anyway. It was always covered with steam and peroxide . . . so no wonder it corroded."

In 1985, the gantry where the LEMS flew was designated as a national historical monument. The vehicle itself is considered an accessory, so it's protected by the same designation.

Last year, a plan began forming to preserve the LEMS. Hampton wanted the craft for its ambitious downtown Virginia Air and Space Center, now under construction.

NASA-Langley had linked with New Horizons in 1984 under the federal "Adopt-a-School" program, offering mentorships to the students there, and they decided to deepen the ties. Langley, the Hampton Museum and New Horizons subsequently formed a partnership with the Virginia Division of Historic Resources to oversee the restoration of the LEMS.

On Friday, the LEMS was lifted out of storage, its legs unbolted and the pale jumble of pipes trucked about four miles to New Horizons.

New Horizons, a vocational center, trains almost 700 students from high schools all over the Peninsula, but only about 150 will get to work on the LEMS.

"The guys selected for this will have twice the work to do," said auto body shop instructor Terry E. Smith.

"They're still going to be doing cars."

Most of the restoration will involve sanding and painting, skills Smith is already trying to develop. "All it is is a bunch of little jobs rolled into one big job," he said.

The project has to be finished by 1992, when the museum is slated to open. NASA will provide original blueprints and specifications, and school officials are optimistic about meeting the deadline.

"We just jumped at the chance to do this," Johnson said. "The students will be working with a piece of history, which is something they've never dealt with. Five hundred years from now, our little plaque will be on there for posterity's sake."

NASA
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Langley Research Center

Researcher

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At Langley Research
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leader and principal investigator of the Laser Heterodyne Spectrometer Experiment, and assistant chief and chief of the Flight Electronics Division.

1988. He began his federal career at Langley in 1955 as an aeronautical research intern. After serving in the U.S. Air Force, he returned to Langley in 1958

of SES executives may receive the rank of Distinguished Executive and only five percent may be named Meritorious Executive.

Jeremiah F. Creedon

W. Ray Hook

Ho\ ke the Lead"

nological superiority at a
gley colloquium Tuesday,
ber 10, at 2 p.m. in the
E. Reid Conference Center,
ding 1222.

His book has been praised
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for consumers.

Prestowitz is a senior
iate for the Carnegie
wment for International
. Previously he was
elor on Japanese affairs to
ecretary of Commerce.

Partnership Will Preserve the Past

-by Allan C. Hanrahan

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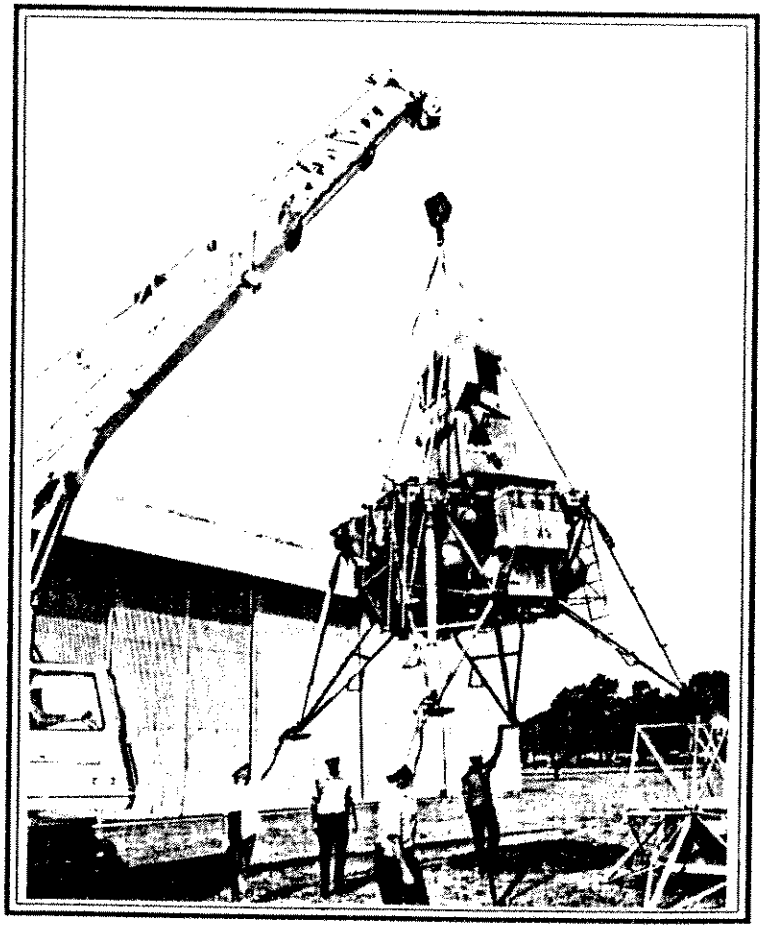

A crane lifts the Apollo Lunar Excursion Module Simulator (LEMS) in preparation for its move to the New Horizons Technical Center for refurbishment. The national landmark will be displayed locally.